



STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Office of Economic Development

*Sean Parnell, Governor*  
*Emil Notti, Commissioner*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State Office of Economic Development to offer workshop for tour guide trainers**

April 23, 2010, Anchorage, Alaska — The State Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's Office of Economic Development will introduce a new Alaska Tour Guide Training Program in May aimed at expanding the availability of basic tour guide training throughout Alaska.

This "train the trainer" program will introduce a new curriculum in a 2½-day interactive workshop format. Experienced guides or guide trainers are welcome to participate in the course, which will be conducted on the campus of the University of Alaska Anchorage on May 13 and 14, with a half-day field training session on May 15.

The Alaska Tour Guide Training program is part of the Developing Alaska Rural Tourism program, sponsored by the Alaska Office of Economic Development and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

"The tour guide training program supports job development and enhancement in the visitor industry," said Wanetta Ayers, director of the Office of Economic Development. "This outreach establishes public-private partnerships that can address visitor industry improvements and regional marketing strategies that will attract visitors and visitor industry investment to rural Alaska."

Developing Alaska Rural Tourism is a project that targets enhancing opportunities in the visitor industry in smaller communities around the state. Through the state Office of Economic Development, the program provides technical assistance, training, and business mentorship to rural Alaska communities and businesses. It also helps communities tap into new funding sources that will help them achieve their long-term visitor industry development goals.

To find out more, or to reserve a spot in the course, contact Odin Brudie (465-5466, [odin.brudie@alaska.gov](mailto:odin.brudie@alaska.gov)) or Dru Garson (465-2162, [dru.garson@alaska.gov](mailto:dru.garson@alaska.gov)).